



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

November 2, 2005

# News Release

## **PUERTO RICAN PREDATOR PLEADS GUILTY**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—A 24-year-old U.S. citizen who was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents on Jan. 8, 2004, pleaded guilty here on Monday to counts one and two of the indictment that charged him with sexual exploitation of children and possession of child pornography.

In Dec. 2003, ICE agents initiated a preliminary investigation into allegations against Jose A. Carrion-Vazquez for having committed lascivious acts against a 4-year-old girl. The ICE investigation led to the execution of a search warrant at Carrion-Vazquez' residence. ICE agents discovered electronic media containing child pornography and videos of an adult committing lascivious acts against a minor in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251 and 2252.

"We have been extremely successful in detecting, arresting and removing, when applicable, these criminals under Operation Predator and we will continue to do so," said Leo I. Morales, acting special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. "Predators who hurt children, our most vulnerable citizens, must know that we will not rest until they are brought to justice."

Carrion-Vazquez' sentencing is scheduled for December.

Carrion-Vazquez' arrest is part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 6,500 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*